The

REPORTER

For Conscience' Sake

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TWO COs STABBED BY "CRIMINALLY INSANE" INMATES

Two conscientious objectors—and two other attendants—were stabbed by four escaping inmates at the Spring Grove State Hospital, Catonsville, Md., on Saturday evening, Jan. 15. The COs are James W. Schmidt of Montezuma, Kans., who was reported as "critically" injured, and Floyd V. Friesen of Conway, Kans., who was listed as in "fair" condition. (As this goes to press, Schmidt has just been taken off the critical list.) Both men are performing their two years of alternative service at this state mental hospital near Baltimore, Md. They are members of the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite.

The four attendants were suddenly jumped on by the escapees while all were in the recreation room of the maximum security ward. Stabbing repeatedly with the weapons they had concealed, the four inmates took the keys from one of the fallen attendants and were thus able to escape. All four escapees were captured within 24 hours after the break.

Edgar Metzler, Mennonite NSBRO staff member, visited the hospital after the incident and wrote a very interesting report.

PRESIDENT ORDERS CUT IN DRAFT CALLS

According to a recent release, the President of the United States has ordered a cut in armed forces personnel, indicating that a monthly rate of 23,000 draftees since July, 1954, was cut to about 11,000 induction calls in January, 1955. This rate is expected to remain approximately constant for some months.

"Administration's" UMT-Reserve Plan Should Be Watched

As this goes to press, the "administration" UMT-RESERVE-DRAFT EXTENSION bills have just been introduced into Congress. H. R. 2886 would extend the "doctor's" draft until July 1, 1957; H. R. 3005 would extend the "regular" draft until July 1, 1959; and H. R. 2967 would put into effect a program of 6-months "voluntary" UMT, would require a longer period of reserve duty, would make such duty mandatory, would strengthen the National Guard, and would change several other laws affecting armed services personnel. The present CO provisions would not be changed by these bills. All COs, however, would still be required to serve 2 years in the civilian work program.

Readers can receive copies of the bills by writing House Document Room, Capitol Building, Washington 25, D. C. Any opinions on the bills can be sent in letter form to the President, Vice President, National Security Council, Office of Defense Mobilization, Secretary of Defense, the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, and one's own Senators and Representative. All should be addressed, Washington 25, D. C. We advise our readers to watch the papers carefully for developments.

An analysis of these UMT-RESERVE-DRAFT EXTENSION bills can be obtained by writing the National Service Board, 1105 K St., N. W., Washington 5, D. C.

"LEGION" BILL, S. 2, WOULD RESTRICT COs

The American Legion's UMT bill, S. 2, introduced into the Senate on Jan. 6, 1955, would restrict the freedom of COs in the civilian work program. Also of possible importance to COs is the section stating that anyone convicted of a felony shall not be inducted. This bill, however, will not be considered by Congress, according to very reliable sources. The "administration" bill will be considered instead.

In general, this bill is regarded as "tougher" than the proposed Administration bill to strengthen the reserves and to bring into being UMT. The bill was introduced by Senators Russell, Kefauver, Stennis, Symington, Jackson, Bridges, and Saltonstall. The "short title" of the bill is "The National Security Training Act."

The bill, as stated in the title, is "To provide a vitalized and equitable Reserve program for the Armed Forces; to provide for the operation of the National Security Training Corps, and for other purposes."

Section 38, entitled "Conscientious Objectors," is as follows:

> "The provisions of section 6 (j) of the Universal Military Training and Service Act, as amended, shall apply to persons liable for induction into the corps: *Provided*, That, if the objector is found to be conscientiously opposed to participation in noncombatant training in the corps, the civilian training or work which he shall be required to perform, in lieu of induction into the corps, shall be for a period equal to the period of training in the corps, and he shall be required to devote to such training or work the same number of hours as are the train-

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FOR AND ABOUT I-Ws

I-W Describes Work Among German Jobless

A very interesting report comes from a conscientious objector assigned to a church service agency, for his two years of civilian work. His work description is as follows: "I am working in a barrack run by the Evangelisch Hilfswerk for the refugees from the east zone (of Germany). Our barrack is about four blocks from the Soviet Sector in the French Sector. The work here is to try to give these jobless people something to do with their time.

"We have many games running the gamut from ping-pong to pick-up-sticks. We have a small library and a reading room. A clothing repair room is equipped with two irons and ironing boards and three sewing machines. A craft or hobby shop where the youngsters from 10 to 17 are building model gliders that fly is also here.

"I suppose that one of my big jobs is to show these people a new side of America—one that is working and praying for peace rather than letting things slide on their merry way to war."

* * *

I-W With "Goodwill" Reports

A report from a I-W working for Goodwill Industries is typical of many doing this work. "I drive a truck—we have eight in all—and am on the road before 8 AM, five days a week. We take turns working on Saturday, as only one truck goes out.

"We have about 30 to 35 calls daily for each truck. We pick up rags, old clothes, shoes, old furniture, magazines, newspapers, toys, stoves, water heaters, dishes, and other miscellaneous items for the benefit of handicapped persons."

* * *

I-Ws Pursue Night and Correspondence Courses

Night school and correspondence courses for high school and college work are being offered to I-Ws in many cities. To many assignees, this seems a good way of getting better positions or jobs, either in alternative service or after release.

I-Ws Tell of Clinical Work in Government Agencies

Two men in alternative service describe their work with governmental agencies in a midwestern state. Both are in hospital work. The first writes as follows: "My assignment is my profession. Currently I am working in the Internal Medicine Clinic section of the Bureau of Medical Social Service. It is my job to counsel, plan with, and assist our clinic patients to work out and resolve their problems which are not of a medical nature. Whether it be helping a man to readjust his way of living and working due to a serious heart condition or instructing a single unattached man to a place where he can get a meal and a bed, all of my work is based on a profound respect for the individual person and his ability to determine his own course of action based on his present needs.

"The main purpose of my job is to help the individuals with whom I talk to resolve their feelings and emotions, which are often highly keyed up, to the point where they will be able to take hold of their problem and resolve it to their best advantage."

The letter from the second I-W continues as follows: "There are about 32 COs at the hospital at the present time. All of them, except myself, are working on the mental and hospital wards as Psychiatric Technicians. Here the routine is to care and feed the patients and rehabilitate them as much as possible....

"As for myself, I am assisting the Pathologist. I assist or actually perform autopsies, preserve specimens and prepare them for microscopic study, keep records, keep the morgue in clean, efficient working condition (including equipment), handle secretarial duties for the Pathologist, and handle the incoming and outgoing patients.

"As I am the only person working with the Pathologist at the present time, it keeps me jumping and so I don't have much time to be bored. Although we are not making any sensational discoveries at the moment, we are gathering much information that when correlated in the future may lead to some small penetration into the mysteries of the physiological aspects of mental disease."

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Dr. Schultz, Former Dean, Conducts I-W Survey

An evaluation of the alternative service program, through the use of a questionnaire sent to Mennonite and Brethren in Christ I-Ws, is being conducted by the Mennonite Central Committee. Dr. J. S. Schultz, former dean of Bluffton College, is directing the survey.

The purpose of the survey is to determine whether the I-W program operates in the best interests of those who serve and those who are served. The effect on the I-W men as well as the churches will also be evaluated.

Questions such as "How do you like the work you are now doing as a I-W?"; "Did you have any difficulty obtaining your I-W classification?"; and "What do your fellow workers think of your CO stand?" are samples from the questionnaire.

"LEGION" BILL AND COs

(*Continued from page* 1)

ees and shall have no more freedom or leave than do they."

Section 39, entitled "Effect of Previous Felony," may have importance as a possible means of lessening the number of cases of multiple prosecutions of COs. It is as follows:

> "No person who, prior to the time of his call for induction into the corps, shall have been convicted of a felony shall be inducted into the corps."

Obviously, if this provision is taken literally, a CO who was given a sufficiently long prison sentence, for refusal of induction, to be regarded as a felon should not be sent a second notice of induction, after the original sentence was served.

Some COs Required to Sign "Loyalty Oaths"

The NSBRO has just learned that some conscientious objectors are being required to sign DD Form 98 (Defense Department Loyalty Certificate) at the time of their preinduction examination. This is clearly against the regulations prescribed by the Army, which state that all potential inductees into the armed services must sign DD Form 98. Since COs classified I-O are *not* potential inductees, they are not required to sign this form.

The issue of "loyalty oaths" is of interest to many COs who have scruples against such oaths, just as they do against military service. Such oaths are regarded as violating the principle of freedom of conscience just as is military service.

In the spring of 1954, the Army Adjutant General's office issued orders that at the time of the preinduction examination—when the physical and mental tests are given to registrants—all potential inductees, except registrants classified I-O, must be given the opportunity to complete the "Loyalty Certificate for Personnel of the Armed Forces," DD Form 98. The signing of this form requires that the registrant state any "traitorous and otherwise disloyal conduct" as well as any connections with any of the approximately 250 "subversive" organizations also listed, and commonly referred to as the "Attorney General's list."

A potential inductee will not be rejected by the armed services if he either refuses to sign this form or if he discloses derogatory information. Such action will, however, result in an investigation, the conclusion of which will either lead to discharge under other than honorable conditions or continued service in assignments where no secret or classified material is handled.

One problem that arises as a result of these Army orders is the decision of a conscientious objector taking a preinduction physical who is not yet classified as a I-O. These orders also bring into sharper focus the questions asked by many COs on the effect of signing "loyalty oaths."

Although these Army orders provide for orientation and discussion by a commissioned officer before the registrants are requested to sign the "oath," this does not always occur. Reports have been received describing how non-commissioned officers have given the registrants only a few minutes to read the form. This was followed by instructions to write the word "none" in the space requesting information about any "disloyal" acts or affiliation in any "subversive" organizations. All inductees were then instructed to sign the form in the place provided.

CO COURT CASES DELAYED FOR SUPREME COURT DECISION

According to a recent United States Attorneys' Bulletin, all conscientious objector court cases should be delayed because of the impending Supreme Court hearings in four cases. This delay will result in either the withholding of decisions where trials have already been conducted, or the withholding of prosecution of cases.

The Supreme Court will soon be hearing the cases of *Whitmer*, *Gonzales*, *Sicurella*, and *Simmons*, all Jehovah's Witnesses. Questions to be argued cover such areas as self-defense, what is a basis in fact for a classification, the objection to obedience to secular authorities, the withholding of FBI reports from the courts and registrants, and the like. (See Nov., 1954, REPORTER for greater detail.)

SIX-WEEKS COURSE IN MILITARY ORIENTATION ESTABLISHED

A six-weeks course in military information and orientation is being offered on a trial basis in 18 public high schools, according to a recent article and editorial in the *Flint (Mich.) Journal*. Sponsored by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the program is being considered for all schools in that area of the United States.

The course will be offered as part of the 11th grade, along with American History. The purpose is to counsel students prior to their entry into military service. Because of the large number of boys who marry before or during their military service, girls as well as boys are taking the orientation course.

The course is designed to help the students formulate specific plans and goals for the next ten years, writes Dr. Lowell Fisher, Chairman of the committee setting up the course. These goals will be organized so that military service will not cause a loss of accomplishment in reaching the goal. Time has been allotted for the covering of the problems of conscientious objectors, the physically handicapped, and others not going into military service, according to Dr. Fisher.

Methodist Youth Uphold Conscience

The National Conference of Methodist Youth, on Aug. 27, 1954, passed ten resolutions, of which five were concerned with the problem of war. They are as follows:

"I. We believe that Christianity and war are inherently incompatible. Christianity affirms that the law of God is the ultimate fact to which man is responsible. War regards the law of the biggest battalions as the final authority (to which man is responsible). Christianity upholds the dignity of human personality. War reduces human personality to an instrument of equivocating national policies. . . . We therefore hold that it is the Christian's oligation to oppose the way of war and to identify himself with those forces which truly seek peace. . . .

"II. We hold in fellowship every Christian who acts according to his deepest understanding of the will of God in his approach to the problem of war, whether he be a conscientious objector, participant, or non-registrant. . . .

"III. The National Conference opposes in principle any type of universal military training. . . .

"IV. We, the National Conference, oppose compulsory ROTC on any educational level. . . .

"X. The Christian gospel of love, brotherhood, and the worth of the individual demand that we oppose methods of mass destruction of human life. . . ."

WRI PUBLISHES LIST OF COs IN JAIL AROUND WORLD

The War Resisters' International just published a list of all "war resisters" who were in prison over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The number of men, by country, is as follows: Australia, 4; Belgium, 1; Great Britain, 6; France, 44; Holland, 8; and Switzerland, 1. There are 28 conscientious objectors in prison in the United States. An unknown number are in prison in Italy, as well as in work camps in Denmark, Holland, Norway, and Sweden.

MANY INDIVIDUALS AND DENOMINATIONS HELP PAY NSBRO EXPENSES

In a report received by the NSBRO Directors-Consultative Council in their meeting on October 14, it was noted that many individual contributors, as well as local and national denominational groups, helped meet the total NSBRO expenses of $26,707.41 for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 1954. Of this total, 27.17% was met through gifts from individual contributors; 21.19% was met by the Brethren Service Commission; and 21.19% by the Mennonite Central Committee. The balance of 30.45% came from other sources as listed below.

The total expenditure for current expenses was $3,292.59 less than the anticipated budget, which had been set at $30,000. The Board of Directors adopted a $30,000 budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 1954.

Following is a list of the sources of income for the past fiscal year, along with the percentages contributed by each:

	Per Cent
Personal contributions	27.17
Brethren Service Commission	21.19
Mennonite Central Committee	21.19
American Friends Service Committee	7.49
Old German Baptist Brethren	4.87
American Baptist Home Mission Society	1.87
Presbyterian Committee	1.87
Dunkard Brethren	1.80
Methodist Board of World Peace	1.80
Christ Sanctified Holy Church	1.31
Assemblies of God	1.13
Evangelical and Reformed Church	1.12
Seventh Day Adventists	1.12
Christadelphian Mil. Affairs Committee	1.02
Christadelphian Service Committee	.93
Friends Five Year Meeting	.75
Bible Students National Committee	.37
Fellowship of Reconciliation	.37
Molokan Advisory Council	.37
Rabinical Assembly	.37
Arthur (Illinois) Mennonite Church	.21
Disciples of Christ	.19
Emmanuel Association	.19
Church of the Brethren, Mardela District	.13
Lutheran Peace Fellowship	.13
Peace Association of Christian Scientists	.13
Highland Mennonite Church, DeRidder, Louisiana	.12
Hutterites, Pendroy, Montana	.12
Episcopal Pacifist Fellowship	.09
First Divine Association of America, Inc.	.09
First Mennonite Sunday School, Indianapolis, Indiana	.08
Aaronic Order, Salt Lake City, Utah	.07
Hutterites, Elmspring Colony	.07
Hutterites, Rosedale Colony	.07
C. O. Advisory Council	.06
The Congregation, Cincinnati, Ohio	.04
Southern Presbyterian Peace Fellowship	.02
Council of Churches of Buffalo & Erie County, New York	.02
Montclair Meeting's Committee for Aid to Draft-Age Men	.01

CALIFORNIA DIRECTOR CHOSEN AS "STATE LIQUOR HEAD"

According to a recent release from a Sacramento, California, newspaper, Col. Kenneth H. Leitch, State Director of Selective Service since 1942, "was named by Governor Knight . . . as California's first liquor director," to be in charge of the state's new Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The article mentioned also that Col. Charles M. Going was designated as state director to succeed Col. Leitch.

Hershey Supports Local Board Authority; Also Urges "Individual" Consideration

The July, 1954, issue of *Selective Service*, a publication of National Selective Service Headquarters, has as an editorial an open letter written by Gen. Hershey to local board members in January 1951. The following excerpts from the editorial, entitled "Review of SSS Principles, Past, Present, and Future," might be of interest to REPORTER readers.

". . . The Selective Service operation is a decentralized one. All of the actions which lead to the induction of men into the Armed Forces are performed in the community. This fact requires that the power to act be delegated to the local board. . . . There are many people who do not believe in this delegation of authority. They give many reasons, such as lack of uniformity, lack of understanding of their problems by local board members, and failure to use general powers possessed by the local board unless there have been specific instructions sent out from National or State Headquarters dealing with that particular type of registrant.

". . . During the early days of the operations of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, there was pressure in Washington to restrict local board authority and to attempt to dictate the decisions of local boards by detailed and specific directives, formulated in and promulgated from Washington.

"With this doctrine the Director was then and remains now in complete disagreement. In the first place, it will defeat its own purpose because it is too complicated. The time element of mobilization requires effective, prompt action which can be attained only by delegation to an official located in the area of the action. In the second place, there are three requirements in making classification: *Integrity, judgment* and *information*. I have complete faith that *integrity* and *judgment* can be found in each community as easily as in Washington. Information may be general or it may be specific. National Headquarters should have more general information than the local board. It can never have specific information comparable with that possessed by the local board.

"It has been unfortunate that this strict application has found utterance attributed to local board members by registrants that local boards could defer no one in the absence of specific instructions to do so or that they would defer no one of certain occupational classifications, such as farmers or members of the maritime service. In the first instance, the power to defer does rest with the local board. In the second instance, it is unwise for an administrative agency responsible for individual decisions, such as the classification of a registrant, to indicate that decisions are made to defer or not to defer in any other manner than after a careful consideration of the particular merits of the individual case. . . ."

PRESIDENTIAL BOARD INSERTS REGISTRANTS' MATERIALS IN FILE

From informed sources it has been learned that materials submitted by a registrant to the Presidential Appeal Board after a file has been called up from the local board are now in some cases being placed in that file. These new materials are sent with the registrant's file back to the local board with a request for the addition of the materials to the file and for reconsideration of the classification. If there is no reconsideration, then the file with the added materials are returned to the Presidential Appeal Board for classification of the registrant.

HERSHEY SUPPORTS

(*Continued from column 2*)

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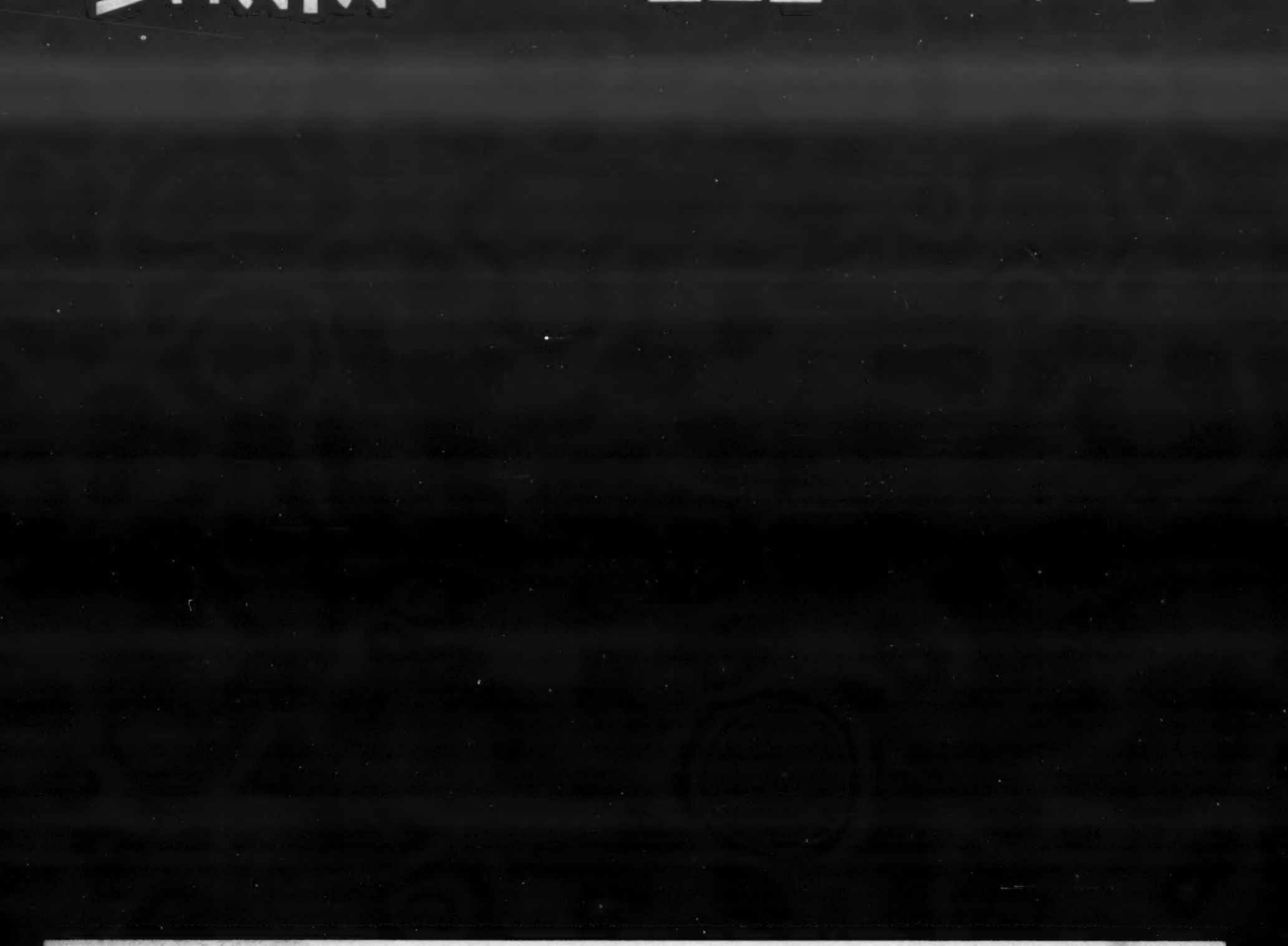
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